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ANNUAL REPORT OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH - 1946.

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June, 1947.

To The Chairman and Members of the
Public Health Committee of the
Borough of Cowbridge.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have to submit, for your consideration, the Annual Report of the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Borough for the year ending 31st. December, 1946.

The Report has been prepared in accordance with Circular 13/47 (Wales) dated 14th. March, 1947 and the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

The Council obtained provisional approval for the new sewerage scheme for the Borough in combination with two parishes in the Rural District Council's area. More details of this proposal are included under the Section dealing with drainage and sewerage.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

DAVID J. EVANS.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION "A".

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area - in acres...	84.
Number of inhabited houses according to the rate book...	275.
Sum represented by a penny rate..	£22. 17. 1.
Rateable value of the District...	£5,485.
Population (Registrar General's estimate mid 1946).	1,255.

EXTRACTS FOR VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births.

Births Registered - 1946.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate live births....	12.	5.	17.
Illegitimate live births..	2.	-	2.
Totals.	14.	5.	19.

STILL BIRTHS:

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate still births.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Illegitimate still births.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

BIRTH RATE. per 1,000 population.

Crude Birth Rate Cowbridge Borough.	15.1
Birth Rate for England and Wales.	19.1
Birth Rate for Administrative County of Glamorgan.	19.4
Birth Rate for Urban Areas in Glamorgan.	19.8

INFANT MORTALITY:

Number of deaths under 1 year of age.	1.
Infant Mortality rate for Cowbridge per 1,000 births.	53.
Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales.	43.
Infant Mortality rate for Administrative County of Glamorgan.	45.
Infant Mortality rate for Urban Areas in Glamorgan.	45.

DEATH RATE per 1,000 population.

Crude death rate for Cowbridge Borough.	9.8
Death rate for England and Wales.	11.5
Death rate for Administrative County of Glamorgan.	12.1
Death rate for Urban Areas in Glamorgan.	12.5

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

The cause of the death of the one infant death is given below:-

Age.	Disease.	Parent's occupation.
2 months.	Asphyxia due to aspiration of vomit.	Fitter R.A.F.

CAUSES OF DEATHS (CIVILIANS) 1946.

Disease.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Heart diseases.	2.	1.	3.
Cancer.	1.	1.	2.
Diabetes.	-	1.	1.
Bronchitis.	1.	-	1.
Pneumonia.	-	1.	1.
Nephritis.	-	1.	1.
Other causes.	1.	1.	2.
TOTAL.	5.	6.	11.

SECTION "B"

GENERAL PROVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES WITHIN THE BOROUGH.

(a) Medical Officer of Health.

David J. Evans, M.R.C.S. (Eng), L.R.C.P. (Lond) (Part Time) Medical Officer of Health for Cowbridge Rural Area and Certifying Factory Surgeon for Cowbridge Area.

(b) Other Officers.

Hubert Thomas, M.R.San.I., A.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector (Part Time - holds appointment with Cowbridge R.D.C.) Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board., Meat and Food Inspector's certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Miss. E. Ramsley, Health Visitor (Part Time - holds appointment with the Cowbridge R.D.C.) State Registered Nurse. Certified Midwife., Health Visitors' Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

All pathological specimens etc., are examined at the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory. As a constituent member of this body the Borough is allowed a number of free examinations for various samples. Additional specimens are charged on the laboratory's scale.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The child welfare and ante natal clinics in the Borough are held each month in conjunction with the neighbouring villages in the Rural District of Cowbridge.
Details of the attendances during 1946 are as follows:-

Visits paid by Health Visitor.

First visits to infants under one year....	....	15.
Repeat visits to infants under one year...	....	46.
First visits to infants between one and five years		2.
Repeat visits to infants between one and five years		146.
		209.

Ante Natal Visits to Mothers in their own homes.

First visits....	....	3.
Repeat visits...	....	2.
		5.

Cowbridge Infant Welfare Clinic: 13 Sessions held.

No. of names on register.	....	36.
First attendances under one year...	....	17.
Repeat attendances under one year..	....	41.
First attendances between one and five years.....		2.
Repeat attendances between one and five years....		57.
		117.

Cowbridge Ante Natal Clinic. 13 Sessions held.

Expectant mothers first attendances...	....	8.
Expectant mothers repeat attendances..	....	24.
		32.

PREVENTION OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table gives the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified etc., during the year 1946:-

Disease.	Cases Notified.	Removed to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever.	1.	1.

Tuberculosis.

No new cases of Tuberculosis were reported during the year and there were no deaths from this disease. The cases remaining on the register at the end of the year were as follows:-

Males.		Females.		
Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.
2.	3.	--	1.	6.

Diphtheria Immunisation:-

Every effort is made to attract parents to have their children immunised against Diphtheria. The immunisation carried out during the year is as follows:-

Between one and five years....	18.
Between five and fifteen years.	2.
Total.	20.

It is interesting to record that no positive case of diphtheria has occurred in the Borough since 1940.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES:

(a) Infectious Cases:- The Borough Council is a constituent member of the Bridgend Joint Hospital Committee and Infectious cases requiring admission to Hospital have use of the Ambulance provided by the Committee. This is charged on a milcage basis.

(b) General Cases:- Arrangements are made with the St. John's Ambulance for the removal to hospital of non-infectious and accident cases.

HOSPITALS:

(a) General Hospitals:-
(i) Cardiff Royal Infirmary. (ii) Bridgend Cottage Hospital. (iii) Bridgend Infirmary.

(b) Orthopaedic Hospital:-
The Prince of Wales Hospital, Cardiff has a convalescent hospital at Crossways, Cowbridge at which orthopaedic cases are treated.

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(c) Infectious Cases:-
Cases from this area are admitted to the Joint Hospital situate at Coed Mirgoed, Bridgend.

(d) Maternity Hospitals:-
There are no Maternity Hospitals or Nursing Homes in the area. Cases from this district can be admitted to the Maternity Block of the Bridgend Infirmary provided they give an undertaking to the Council that they will be responsible for the fees. Difficult cases may be removed to the Cardiff Royal Infirmary.

OTHER TREATMENT CENTRES:-

Disease.	Clinic.
Tuberculosis.	Welsh National Memorial Association Clinic at Bridgend.
Venereal Disease.	Clinics at Barry and Cardiff.
Mental Diseases.	School Clinic at Bridgend.

SECTION "C".

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply:-
A constant supply of wholesome water is available from the mains of the Mid-Glamorgan Water Board which pass through the Town. This water is not subject to plumbo-solvent action.
Examination of samples show the water to be of high bacterial quality but Chemical Analyses indicate that the water is extremely hard.
98.6 per cent of the houses in the area are connected to the Board's supply.

Swimming Baths and Pools:-
The Council's open air swimming bath is on the River Thaw some little distance to the north of the town and within the Cowbridge Rural Area. It was not extensively used during the year now reviewed.

Schools:-
There are two schools in the Council's boundary. One is the Elementary School at Broadway and the other the Cowbridge Grammer School;

(a) Pontfaen Elementary School:- Pail closets are provided at this school. Hope is expressed that the Education Authority will give early consideration to the provision of water closets. I am of the opinion that pail closets in schools are objectionable and do not introduce the elements of hygiene to scholars in their impressionable years.

(b) The Grammer School:- Water closets, shower baths and rains water are available at this school. The cesspool provision serving a portion of the school gives cause for complaint from time to time.

Housing:-

The Council have given consideration to the question of providing new housing accommodation for overcrowded families and persons living in insanitary houses. The programme provides for 38 houses.

Flooding:-

Flooding of the River Thaw occurred at Cowbridge on the night of the 31st. August, 1946. This was one of the severest floodings experienced in the town and numerous houses near the river were flooded.

Milk Samples:-

Samples of milk for Bacteriological Examination.

Samples taken from Purveyors in the Borough during the year....	6.
Satisfying the Methylene Blue Reduction Test.....	6.
Satisfying the B. Coli Test..	2.

Samples of Milk for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli.

Six samples of milk were examined at the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory during the year. All six gave negative results.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 etc.

Number of retail purveyor's of milk cancelled during the year (By reason of ceasing to retail milk).....	1.
Number of Retail Purveyor's on Register.	4.
Number of Producers of milk registered.. ,...	Nil.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-43.

Number of Supplementary Licences issued authorising the use of the Special designation "Pasteurised" in the Borough during the year.....	1.

Meat and Other Foods:-

The statement of the foodstuffs inspected and condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year ended 31st. December, 1946 is given below:-

Class of Foodstuff.	lbs.	ozs.
Dried fruits and vegetables.	229.	12.
Tin Milk.	23.	9.
Tin Vegetables.	19.	8½.
Tin Soups.	17.	8.
Coffee.	1.	0.
Spices, etc.	5.	9.
Flour.	6.	0.
Tin Fish.	2.	11½.
Tin Meats.	199.	0.
Potatoes.	2240.	0.
Dried Eggs.	1.	14.
Fresh Meat.	130.	0.
Meat Offal.	31.	3.
Total.	2905.	6.

The above foodstuffs were disposed of to the instructions of the Salvage Division of the Ministry of Food.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. (Section 14).

Number of premises registered for the manufacture and sale of sausages, pressed pickled and preserved foods.....	4.
Number of premises registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream	3.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE:

The Welsh Board of Health have intimated that they provisionally approve the scheme for the proposed sewering of the Borough and have allocated a £20,000 grant under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944 towards the Borough's portion of the scheme. The Council and townspeople anxiously await the commencement of the work which has been long advocated in my annual reports.

Rivers and Streams:-

The River Thaw which passes through the town is seriously polluted by crude sewage from the drainage of the Borough.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION:

The closet accommodation remains the same as reported in previous years.

PUBLIC CLEANSING:

A twice weekly collection of house refuse in the town is carried out under Contract. Disposal of the refuse is carried out at the Rural District Council's Site at Llan-dhangel, Near Cowbridge where controlled tipping is in operation as far as possible.

SHOPS:

No statutory action was necessary in connection with inspection of shops under the Shops Act, 1934, the Public Health Act, 1936 and the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

SMOKE ABATEMENT:

There are no industrial plants within the Borough and it was not found necessary to take any action under this heading.

RODENTS:

The Borough Council agreed to take advantage of the financial assistance of the Ministry of Food for the eradication of rats within the town. A preliminary survey made during the year showed that 25 premises were infested with these pests.

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED UNDER THE HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS:

Informal Notices....	16.
Work carried out....	13.
Works in hand.....	3.